

therapy to actually put the stem cells into the body, and that is exactly what is being done here. Cells from a person's body are being used, through somatic cell nuclear transfer, to be able to create the potentiality of curing these horrific diseases.

Calling that an embryo does not make it an embryo. It is not an embryo. It is not creating life by any definition of creating life. It is the potentiality to continue life.

I would say it in several ways. If someone, by reason of their theology, their personal belief system, does not allow them to do that, then I say let them choose not to do that. But for the tens of millions of patients, 100 million family members, do not stop them from doing it, number one. This bill goes to an extreme and even says that we cannot import drugs for use in this country. I am sure there is not a Member in this chamber who could look at a family member in the eye of one of those tens of millions of Americans when that drug is created in England or France or Ireland or wherever and say, you cannot have that drug. I know there is not a Member that could do it, and we should not do it today.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON).

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding time. We are going to have a lot of debate and I assume some of the arguments that the gentleman has put forward will be debated further in the course of the afternoon. I will just point out one or two quick things.

The procedure that they would like to make legal is illegal in several European countries. There is really only one that currently allows it, and they have come under a lot of criticism. I think by passing my bill, we actually bring the United States into conformity with a lot of thinking that is going on in the world.

The gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTSCH) mentioned a "study" where paralysis had been reversed. I do not know where he got that reference from. There was a story in the press of a rat that had paralysis and a lot of the press reported it as embryonic stem cells. It was not embryonic stem cells, it was fetal stem cells. It was not even a study, it was a scientist who took some video footage. It was not peer reviewed. Nevertheless, it was reported in the press as a "study."

This is not about embryonic stem cell research, it is about whether or not we are going to carry this whole issue one step further, no longer using the excess embryos in the clinics, but now creating embryos for research purposes.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE).

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, today, the House is faced with one of the most complex and potentially far-reaching medical and ethical issues it will ever

face. As a body, we should have time to examine the ramifications of the many issues involved in cloning, time for deliberative judgment, time for exploring alternatives and crafting enforceable legislation. But today, we are not being given that time, and that is why we must reject this rule.

We are being given less than 3 hours today when most Members have not had the time to understand and explore the potent ramifications of this issue to decide an issue which will not only impact tens of millions of Americans today, but will also impact future generations.

Cloning is one of the most important and far-reaching issues we will examine in our public service. Its impact may be incalculable. Cloning will alter our world. It is true that powerful, potent and perhaps dangerous research efforts currently proceed unchecked. Technological knowledge grows exponentially with new and important results announced daily. The rush of data creates a surging, uncontrolled current that finds its own course.

We must not legislate long after the damage has been done, and that is why we need to try to find a way to have foresight and vision, providing leadership for others around the world. We must find a way to ban human cloning, while allowing research to continue.

Therefore, I support the revised Greenwood-Deutsch substitute which bans reproductive cloning, but allows strictly regulated, privately funded therapeutic cloning. Reproductive cloning practices which must be banned are an attempt to create a new human being and, as we heard in hearings throughout the spring, there are fringe groups who would like to clone humans. This is wrong, and it must be stopped.

Conversely, somatic cell nuclear transfer, or so-called "therapeutic cloning," is the way to take stem cell research and all of its promise from the lab to the patient who has diabetes, Parkinson's Disease, Alzheimer's, spinal cord injury, and other health problems. Stem cell research helps us take a stem cell, a cell that is a building block to be made into any other cell, and turn that cell into a variety of different tissues for the body.

But medical experts tell us that that stem cell, because the DNA differs from the DNA of the individual that the new tissue is to be donated to, will often be rejected, because the genetic makeup of that tissue is different. Somatic cell nuclear transfer gets around that problem of rejection, because the stem cells that create the organ or tissue are from the patient. As a result, the patient's body will not recognize the organ or tissue as a foreign object.

Let me give my colleagues an example. A diabetic, if we take a cell and we make a stem cell and then we make an Islet cell that produces insulin from that stem cell, the person's body will still reject that Islet cell without immunosuppressive drugs because the

DNA is different. But with somatic stem cell transfer, if we take an egg, an unfertilized human egg, we remove the 23 chromosomes and we take the diabetic patient and replace the 23 chromosomes with 46 of that own patient's chromosomes, we can make Islet cells that that person's body will not reject.

The other thing, the very dangerous thing the Weldon bill does is, if there are nonhuman cloning techniques which are used for therapies abroad, we can never import those therapies, to have to say to someone who needs a skin graft that a therapy developed overseas cannot be used to replace one's own healthy skin.

The ancient Greeks developed mythological answers for questions they did not understand. Their mythology brought order into chaos. We do not have that luxury in our society. We cannot stand back, shrug our shoulders and say, it is the will of the gods. Cloning is man's discovery and man has to take control over cloning and all of its consequences, good and bad.

Mr. Speaker, I urge rejection of this rule, and I also urge adoption of the Greenwood-Deutsch substitute. Let us have a debate. Let us have a full discussion, and let us figure this out in a way all of us can be proud of in a reasonable, not a political way.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD).

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding time. I also want to thank my opponent in this debate, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON), for letting me use one of his charts to which I will refer in a moment.

This rule makes in order the Greenwood-Deutsch substitute. The Greenwood-Deutsch substitute, just like the base bill, makes it illegal to create a human being through cloning. We all, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON) and I, and all of the speakers we will hear from today, all believe that it is not safe and it is not ethical to create a new human being through cloning. We need to ban that.

What we do not want to ban is, as has been said, the somatic cell nuclear transfer research, because that, my colleagues, that is what gives us the most promising opportunity to cure the diseases that have plagued humanity for centuries.

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Every one of us has had the experience that I have had in my office over and over again: a mother and father bring in their little diabetic child, sometimes with a big bottle of needles showing how many times they must inject themselves while they buy time to see if diabetes will eventually kill them.

Every one of us has had the experience that I have had where a beautiful young mother comes into the office, she cannot raise her arms for Lou Gehrig's disease, and is trying to raise